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Pers. Raymond, Henry

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Publishers

CIA 4 u.s. book sponsorship

Soc 4-01.2 ~~Frederick Praeger, Inc.~~

STANTON DEFENDS U. S. I. A. ON BOOKS

In a Reply to Fulbright, He
Asks Trust in U.S. Policy

By HENRY RAYMONT

Dr. Frank Stanton, president of the Columbia Broadcasting System, disagreed strongly yesterday with Senator J. W. Fulbright on the United States Information Agency's overseas book program.

Senator Fulbright charged on Tuesday, and repeated yesterday, that the program was endangering the integrity and independence of American publishing by "secretly subsidizing" for distribution in the United States books favorable to the

Johnson Administration's foreign policy.

Dr. Stanton, saying that the information agency had abandoned its policy of secret subsidies more than six months ago, said yesterday:

"I think the time has come when we should show greater trust in our Government's information efforts."

As chairman of a Presidential commission on information, Dr. Stanton recommended on March 6 that any material prepared by the information agency for dissemination abroad be "made available" on request inside the United States.

"The Right to Know"

Until recently, such material had largely been kept concealed from public scrutiny for fear of arousing Congressional criticism.

"I believe that the agency should be encouraged, not reprimanded, for disclosing to the

American people what information it is disseminating in its overseas programs," Dr. Stanton said in an interview yesterday. "This is an essential element in the people's right to know."

Earlier, Senator Fulbright said in an interview that Congress should cut off any Federal funds used for subsidizing books, magazines or films that could be used to "propagandize" the Administration's foreign policy.

Mr. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, who came here yesterday to visit the United States mission to the United Nations, said he had prepared legislation that would prevent the information agency or any other Government agency from making available to the domestic market books and films subsidized for use abroad unless they were identified properly.

At least one publisher has

admitted publicly to having accepted support from the Central Intelligence Agency and the information agency for books that are also distributed in the United States.

In scoring the book policy of the information agency at a hearing of the Foreign Relations Committee in Washington on Tuesday, Senator Fulbright specifically referred to three books on Vietnam that were identified later by agency officials as "Terror in Vietnam" by Jay Mallin, "Why Vietnam?" by Frank Trager and "Peking and People's Wars" by Maj. Gen. Sam Griffith, a retired Marine Corps officer.

Martin Puner, vice president of Frederick Praeger, Inc., which published the Trager and the Griffith books, said yesterday that the information agency had purchased 2,000 copies of each for overseas distribution.